

Charlie Fehrs – June 1, 1943-April 29, 2010
From daughters Claire and Jill.

Charlie - he never liked Arthur – was born in Cwmfelin, Maesteg in a close family of four – a brother, Hugh, and two sisters, Margaret and Mary. He was a pupil at Cwmfelin Primary School and Maesteg Grammar School. There, he was a keen sportsman, playing rugby, football and cricket. Sport continued to be a passion throughout the rest of his life.

Charlie qualified as a PE teacher at Caerleon College and from there gained a job teaching in Nottingham. He met his future wife, Ann there and although he settled in Nottinghamshire for the rest of his life, he never lost his enthusiasm for all things Welsh; particularly the national rugby team.

He moved out of school teaching and into the prison service in the mid 1970's, working at Lowdham Grange and then as Chief Education Officer at Walton Jail, Liverpool and finally Glen Parva Young Offenders' Institute, Leicester. During this time he changed the lives of many offenders through his fervent belief in literacy for all. He retired from the Prison Service in late 1993.

His main passion was rugby. After a successful playing career with Moderns, he joined Newark RUFC in 1980. He was coach to the club in the late 1980's and early 1990's and then made club president between 1998 and 2000. He was subsequently made a life member of the club.

During his coaching spell, Newark enjoyed huge success. The team gained the club's highest position in the newly-created national league system by finishing third three years running from 1988 in Midlands One. The team also triumphed in Cup competitions winning the NLD Cup in 1988 and 1990.

In other parts of his life, Charlie was a keen gardener, spending many happy hours in his productive vegetable garden. He and Ann were enthusiastic cyclists. They cycled the length of France many times, visiting their favourite island Corsica on numerous occasions. After Ann's death in 1997, he continued to cycle, notably navigating from the south tip to the north tip of New Zealand on a three-month epic in 2003.

Charlie was first diagnosed with cancer in 1994 but never allowed his health problems to stop him leading an active retirement. He regularly travelled abroad to watch England cricket and Welsh Rugby, taking in numerous Rugby World Cups.

In his later years, he could be seen walking Scruff (his dog) around the Parish (the rugby ground). He was a committed family man and grandparent to his three grandchildren. His lifestyle was inevitably tempered by ill health and his determination to carry on normally throughout his many treatments won him great admiration.

Charlie's understated and inclusive style and ability to talk to anyone will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his two daughters, Claire and Jill and his three grandchildren, Joshua, Tasha and Jacob.